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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

for the Year

1951.

MINIST.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer.

18th September, 1952.

Council Offices,
"Woodleigh",
Barnard Castle.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

There was no marked change in the birth-rate this year there being sixty-six live-births registered compared with sixty-five in the previous year. There were eighty-four deaths compared with seventy-two in 1950, but it will be noted that the causes of death were mainly associated with the higher age groups.

Local Industries.- These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 751 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.- Boring at the new borehole near Mount Pleasant Reservoir continued to a depth of 594 feet which was reached in October when the boring operation was discontinued.

Continuous test pumping was carried out from 5th November to 2nd December at various rates of delivery and samples of pumped water were taken for analysis.

The record of the rate of recovery of the water level in the borehole was still being taken at the end of the year.

A joint report by the Consulting Engineer and the Geologist on the delivery and recovery rates of the borehole and analysis of the water is being prepared.

Due to the dry weather conditions during the summer months, it was found necessary to curtail the supply of water to the town at night from late July to the end of October. During the remainder of the year the yield from the springs and auxiliary water from the Royal Air Force borehole provided a good continuous supply. The analysis of the water was satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.- Regular inspection of rivers and streams is carried out by the Wear and Tees Fishery Board and this Council, and early action is taken if any evidence of fouling or pollution is suspected.

Refuse Tip.- As the land available for tipping is quickly becoming filled and nearing the boundary fence, negotiations have been commenced for the purchase of an additional 11.893 acres of land which will be a natural extension of the present tip to the west. It is expected that the agreement for purchase will be completed in 1952.

The capacity of the additional tipping land should be sufficient for the next 20 to 25 years.

As the tip extends westwards, it will be further removed from the road and the filled areas of the present tip will be levelled and covered with a layer of earth ready for reseeding and bringing back into cultivation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.- Work on the alterations to the Sewage Disposal Works, with a view to the treatment of a certain amount of effluent from the Penicillin Factory on an experiment basis, as agreed between the Council and the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, was resumed in September after a temporary stoppage since February due to delay in delivery of essential valves and fittings.

It is expected that the experimental plant will be completed early in 1952.

Closet Accommodation.- Four pail closets were disused during the year, three of these serving properties in Confirmed Clearance Areas and one property which was the subject of a Demolition Order. Sixteen pail closets remain and five privies, some of which cannot at present be connected to the sewers.

Housing.- Sixty Council and two private houses were completed during the year.

The Montalbo Road Housing Site was completed during the year and all houses occupied.

Work on the roads and sewers for the Zetland Road Extension Housing Scheme was completed and the erection of thirty-nine houses commenced.

Land has been acquired for housing at Green Lane. Layout plans are being prepared for the site which should accommodate approximately 177 houses. Work on the first section of the roads and sewers will be commenced in 1952.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the end of the year was 256, compared with a figure of 240 at the end of the previous year. This indicates an increase of fifteen on the waiting list and reflects the urgent need for new housing in the area.

PROVISION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

	Situation.	Bungalow 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	TOTAL
Pre. 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25*
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939.	14	35	20	10	79
Post. 1939.	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Total Post. 1939.	8	20	122	18	168
	GRAND TOTAL	22	55	142	28	247
In course of construction	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Maisonettes.	6 Maisonettes. 14	- 13	- -	- 39

* This figure comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Section 11. Housing Act, 1936.- Demolition Orders were made on three houses during the year and an undertaking not to use three more houses for human habitation was accepted by the Council. At the end of the year four houses on which demolition orders had been served were vacant but had not been demolished.

The demolition notice served on the owner of 48, Bridgegate, was the subject of an appeal heard in the County Court on the 25th October. The case was adjourned to enable an independent report on the stability of the rear wall and the dampness in the gable wall to be received, the owner paying the cost of an examination by a Surveyor.

Section 12. Housing Act, 1936.- Two parts of buildings used as dwellings were the subject of Closing Orders. One of these, and one the subject of a Closing Order in 1950 are still occupied. An undertaking was accepted during the year to convert two more dwellings into one flat and an extension to shop premises.

The following is the position regarding houses in Confirmed Clearance Areas at 31st December, 1951.

No. of Clearance Area.	Date Area Confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Occupiers 31/12/51	No. Demolished 31/12/51	No. Vacant 31/12/51
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	Nil	36	Nil
8	-do-	5	6	Nil	3	2
9	-do-	2	2	Nil	Nil	2
1 to 9		43	54	Nil	39	4
10	12/3/38	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
11	-do-	2	3	Nil	Nil	2
12	-do-	3	3	1	Nil	2
13	-do-	3	3	3 *	Nil	Nil
14	-do-	7	10	3	1	2
15	-do-	5	5	1 *	2	3
16	-do-	5	12	3	Nil	4
17	-do-	7	7	5	Nil	2
18	-do-	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
19	-do-	13	18	14 *	Nil	2
20	-do-	3	3	2 *	Nil	1
21	-do-	2	2	1	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	7	Nil	Nil
10to22		61	77	44	4	19
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	44	43	23

Houses marked * have tenants who are occupying the premises illegally.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	17	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	32	14	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	5	14	-
TOTAL ...	79	45	-

Cases in which Defects were found - Nil.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.- The August list from a local Glove Factory contains the names of five outworkers. All are resident in Barnard Castle, and are working under satisfactory conditions.

Common Lodging House.- There is one common lodging house situated in the Urban District. The keeper is registered. The premises are old and dilapidated and are not kept in strict compliance with the byelaws. Frequent visits of inspection are necessary.

Smoke Abatement.- No nuisances were observed nor were any complaints received.

Tents and Caravans.- A licence to station a trailer caravan on a building site was granted by the Council during the year.

One small field 1.005 acres in area and situated on the outskirts of the town is used as a holiday camping site and has two permanent residents.

Some campers have their own canvas screened pail closets.

Water supply is provided by a tap fitted in a hut which also houses water closets, supply being obtained from the Council's mains.

Two W.C.'s are provided and these are drained into a cesspool some 60 to 70 feet away.

Refuse is collected by the Council from bins placed near the entrance to the site.

The types of structures situated on this camping site in addition to eleven trailer caravans, now include converted tram bodies, bus bodies, an old lorry with caravan body, three wooden huts and an old converted railway carriage. Tents are also erected on the site during holiday periods. I must stress the need for maintaining adequate sanitary arrangements for this very varied assortment of structures.

Application was received during the year for a camping ground licence for two more fields on the outskirts of the town. The Council informed the applicant that a licence would be issued permitting the use of Field No. 1 for 25 tents and field No. 2 for 20 purpose made trailer caravans when suitable sanitary arrangements including water supply and facilities for storage of refuse had been provided.

Rodent Control.- A rodent operative is employed jointly with the Startforth and Barnard Castle Rural District Councils.

The Council's sewers received a full and a maintenance treatment for infestations with rats and six private dwellings and five business premises for mice infestations. Three of these had a second treatment during the year, two for rat and one for mice infestations.

The only major infestations found were at the Council's refuse tip, otherwise the infestations were small and were treated with good results using Ministry of Agriculture methods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Ice Cream.- There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the town. The twenty-two persons registered to retail ice-cream receive their supplies from outside the district. Most ice-cream is wrapped at the place of manufacture.

Milk Retailers.- Eight retailers operate within the area, four of these being licensed to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk. One retailer sells Tuberculin Tested Milk from his own farm.

Meat.- Slaughtering of animals for the Barnard Castle Urban, Rural Districts and Startforth Rural District takes place at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Vere Road.

Ante mortem inspections of animals are carried out whenever possible

Post mortem inspections are made of all animals at the time of slaughter or as soon after as is practicable.

Meat (Continued).- Inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The premises used as a Slaughterhouse are unsatisfactory and the conditions render it almost impossible to deal with the carcases in a hygenic manner.

A deputation consisting of the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, a representative of the Barnard Castle National Farmers' Union, the Clerk to the Council and the Sanitary Inspector, conferred with officials of the Ministry of Food (Animal and Livestock Division) at Guildford on the 6th June, regarding the abattoir accommodation at Barnard Castle. At the interview and in subsequent correspondence, it was stated that the government had decided on a moderate concentration of slaughterhouses in the country as a whole and a national plan for siting would be required. The Ministry further stated that at the present stage, the provision of new abattoir accommodation at Barnard Castle would have to be deferred.

Carcase Inspected and Condemned.

1st January to 31st December, 1951.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs.		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	S.S.
Number Killed	1055	79	174	164	4	151	3449	250	197	162	18
Number Inspected	1055	79	174	164	4	151	3449	246	197	162	14
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.-											
Whole carcase condemned	-	15	-	51	-	42	1	51	-	14	-
Carcase - some part condemned	270	2[illegible]	53	77	-	6	29	5[illegible]	2	34	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	25.6	45.6	30.4	78.0	-	31.8	1.0	42.7	1.0	29.6	-
Tuberculosis only.-											
Whole carcase condemned	3	2	2	10	-	5	-	-	-	3	-
Carcase - some part condemned	63	4	20	17	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.2	7.6	12.6	16.4	-	3.3	-	-	.5	3.0	-

Key to Diagram.-

C.C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.
Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.
S.S. - Ministry of Food Self Supplying Scheme (Cottage Pigs)

Food Poisoning.- No cases of food poisoning were notified under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after notice.
Dwelling Houses:			
Structural defects	12	1	12
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Lodging Houses	1	-	1
Deposits of refuse and manure	1	-	1
Water closets	8	-	7
House drainage	24	-	23
Water Supply	4	-	4
Dustbins	10	-	10
	60	1	58

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure - mid year 1951)	4,606
Number of inhabited houses	1,404
Rateable Value	£27,737
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£98: 8: 8.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1951, compiled from the Bowes Museum.

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum.
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator and Secretary for the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.
Height of Gauge above Seal Level	550 feet.

1951.	Ins.
January	2.68
February	3.65
March	3.86
April	2.13
May	3.55
June	.96
July	.99
August	3.64
September	1.39
October	1.18
November	8.79
December	5.02
Total	37.84
Average 5 yrs. 1947-51	33.50

37.84	1951
34.04	1950
26.29	1949
30.49	1948
38.85	1947

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	66	61	33	28
	Illegitimate		5	2	3

Live Birth Rate - 14.3 per 1,000 home population. Corresponding rate for the 148 smaller towns (Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) - 16.7.

			Total	Male	Female
Still Births.	Legitimate	2	2	2	-
	Illegitimate		-	-	-

Still Birth Rate - (per 1,000 home population) - 0.43. Corresponding rate for 148 smaller towns - 0.38.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	84	42	42

Death Rate (per 1,000 home population) - 18.2
for 148 smaller towns - 12.5.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.-

	Male	Female
Total	3	-
Legitimate	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age.-

	Male	Female
Total	3	-
Legitimate	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year.-

All Infants (per 1,000 live births) 45.5
148 Smaller towns 27.6

Causes of Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Cancer (all types)	2	3	5
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	4	9	13
Coronary disease, angina	7	5	12
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other Heart Disease	12	10	22
Other Circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	2	-	2
All other causes	5	8	13
	42	42	84

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases continued to remain low the total number of cases notified being forty-three compared with one hundred and ninety-six for the previous year. The measles cases, which comprised the greater proportion of these notified occurred mainly in the first three months of the year and were in children aged five years or under.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.- Two suspected cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. One of these was a boy aged thirteen years who developed weakness in the right leg. Following admission to hospital he was diagnosed as a mild case of paralytic poliomyelitis. I am pleased to report that he subsequently made a good recovery and there is no evidence of a permanent disability. The other suspected case was a boy aged eight years, a pupil at the Preparatory School. He was later found not to be suffering from Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) During the year.-

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever	5	3	-	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	-	-	3
Erysipelas	2	1	-	2
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	2	1	1
Measles	27	-	-	27
Whooping Cough	4	-	-	4

Analysis of the total cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under one Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	1	6	16	4	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	7	2	27	2	1	5
Diphtheria	5	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	50	60	2	147	27
Whooping Cough	-	18	9	5	45	4
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1	1	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	2	2	1	3
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	2	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.- According to the records received at the County Health Department there was a considerable fall compared with the previous year in the number of children aged under fifteen, who received a primarly course of immunisation (70 in 1950).

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided, at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months and to encourage re-enforcing doses at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice, and reminders are given to parents by the Assistant School Medical Officer at the Annual Medical inspection of schools.

In June and July by arrangement with the County Education Authority, two sessions for immunisation were held in the Barnard Castle Infants School.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

	Age at date of final injection.		Total under 15.
	0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1951.	35	15	50

Number given reinforcing injection - 35.

Tuberculosis.

Six new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year comprising three males and three females.

	New Cases				Deaths			
Age Periods	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non Respiratory M.	Non Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non Respiratory M.	Non Respiratory F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 & over	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff.- The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals.- There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity of Children in the district.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.- I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

TABLE A.

	* Bishop Auckland (No. 14) Control Area.	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-Telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting Case Cars	Nil	Nil
Driver-Attendants	30	4

* Barnard Castle Urban and Rual Districts form part of this control area, the column adjoining showing the depots etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24 hour service.

TABLE B.

Summary of work done during 1951 by vehicles stationed in Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.

Journeys	Cases carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
1018	493	2152	2645	64865

NOTE: In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rual districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the Control Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

Nursing Arrangements.- Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, which now operates under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the services formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements wherby the domiciliary midwifery service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now availabe free of charge.

Nursing Arrangements (Continued).- Services are provided for this area and for the Startforth district by two nurses resident in the town. General, midwifery and maternity cases are nursed.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N.,S.C.M.) Chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee.- The Committee of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officers reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White and to Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PATEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.